

## Use of Palm Oil Clinker in Concrete Research: A Review

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**ABSTRACT** – Palm oil clinker (POC) is a stone like by-product which is formed in the palm oil mill incinerator after extracted palm oil fibres and shells are burnt to generate electricity for mill operation. The electricity is continuously generated. Then, the burnt fibres and shells are thrown at dumping areas as waste. This practice consumes a larger area at the landfills, causing environmental pollution. A review on the physical and chemical properties of POC was presented. The effect of using POC as lightweight aggregates and partial cement replacement on the mechanical properties of concrete produced was reviewed. The integration of suitable amount of POC as cement replacement and lightweight aggregates provided good workability and enhanced the concrete strength. Conclusively, this article has presented information regarding the development in POC concrete research, including the research gaps that remain to be filled.

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## INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, concrete is the most popular construction material [1]. The overall demand for concrete per year is 11.5 billion tonnes, consuming 9 billion tonnes of sand and rock, 1 billion tonnes of mixing water, and 1.5 billion tonnes of cement per year [2]. Concrete manufacturing is one of the human activities that has the greatest possible environmental effect, since it is the second most utilised material after water and requires a huge number of extracted materials [3]. Approximately up to 80% of concrete volume is made up of aggregates [4]. In 2019, the construction of sand and gravel supply resulted in about 970 million tonnes, which was a 4% increase over in 2018 [5]. Demand for sand and gravel increased in 2019 due to continued growth in the private and public building sectors [5]. According to Kuhar [6], global demand for natural concrete aggregates is expected to rise at an average annual rate of 7.7% through 2022, reaching 66.2 billion tonnes. These high levels of demand have affected the environment and living organisms [7]. According to Agrawal et al. [8], an unprecedented increase in demand for natural river sand had resulted in its erosion and extraction, which adversely influenced the climatic conditions, such as riverbank slippage and water table lowering. Additionally, mining will interrupt sediment supply and channel form, resulting in channel deepening (incision) and ecosystem sedimentation downstream. Instabilities in the channel and sedimentation caused by instream mining may also wreak havoc on public infrastructures, such as bridges, pipelines, and power lines [9]. Elimination of plants and degradation of the soil profile results in loss of ecosystems at both above and below levels. The decline in fauna population is one of the sand mining impacts [10]. At the same time, vast amounts of coarse aggregates are extracted from the surrounding quarries and have devastated environmental implications. Danielsen & Kuznetsova [11] and Qin et al. [12] recorded environmental impacts on local neighbourhoods and communities like noise, pollution, atmospheric pollutants, such as heavy metals, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), volatile organic compound (VOC), carbon monoxide (CO), and impacts on biodiversity due to land degradation. One of the most crucial development materials that is usually applied in nation constructions is Portland cement, which is used as a concrete binder. The cement industry is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), especially carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). As CO<sub>2</sub> emissions continue to rise at an unprecedented rate, the predicted global warming by environmentalists over the last few decades has become a reality [13]. Gao et al. [14] estimated that cement manufacturing contributes to 5% –7% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere worldwide. Since concrete production accounts the most environmental issues, it is imperative to develop various mitigation strategies, especially by utilising waste materials to function as mixing ingredients in concrete.

Palm oil is a significant product which leads to many community livelihoods, governments' GDP, and achievement in several sustainable development goals (SDGs), including non-poverty, zero hunger, decent jobs, and economic growth [15]. Malaysia is the world's second largest palm oil producer after Indonesia, accounting for 26% of global output [16]. Over the years, the number of operating palm oil mills has gradually increased. In 2020, Malaysia had 457 working mills with gross production capability of 1.16 million tonnes [17]. According to Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB) [18], the total area under oil palm cultivation had grown to 5.90 million hectares in 2019, which was up 0.9 % from 5.85 million hectares in the previous year. The growth in palm oil plantation areas, which also increases the quantity of palm oil processed, would lead to growth of profitless by-products generated from the industry. Palm oil industrial waste will rise as oil palm tree plantations increased [19, 20]. One hectare of oil palm plantation can produce about 50–70 tonnes of biomass residues [21]. The biomass produced by palm oil processing mills includes fibres, oil palm shells (OPS), palm oil fuel ash (POFA), palm oil clinker (POC), and empty fruit bunches (EFB), which could have catastrophic environmental consequences if not handled properly [22–24].

Following the oil extraction procedure, the pressed shells and fibres are burnt in an incinerator at a high temperature of about 850°C, resulting in POC formation in the chamber, which is channelled out to the dumping sites [25]. The POC is a large grey chunk with an irregular and flaky shape that resembles a porous stone. Karim et al. [26] stated that due to its stable crystallographic structure, it is non-biodegradable under normal environmental conditions. The vast amount of waste generated is one of the key contributors to the nation's pollution issue [27] because these waste materials have little commercial value and are typically deposited into open fields and landfills after palm oil extraction [28, 29]. This irresponsible disposal triggers severe water, air, and land pollutions [30], including soil contamination, and affects the source of groundwater supplies [31]. According to Nayaka et al. [32] and Hamada et al. [33], POC is a waste material with many silica oxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) contents that can be turned into future building materials. The usage of POC as an alternative material in building can reduce construction costs, while not imposing a significant strain on the climate. Numerous studies were conducted in various aspects of using POC as one of the mixing ingredients to manufacture more environmentally friendly concrete. This research paper looks at the properties of POC and concrete which were studied thus far.

## PROPERTIES OF PALM OIL CLINKER

### Physical Properties of Palm Oil Clinker

POC is a by-product of palm oil fibres and shells incineration. The colour of POC is blackish, while the shape is irregular, which is porous, light, and durable. It can be transformed into lightweight aggregate concrete. For this research, POC was obtained from a local palm oil factory. Due to its low specific gravity and internal porous structure, POC has been proposed by many researchers to be ideal for LWA in concrete [34]. Table 1 lists the characteristics of POC. The physical properties of aggregate must be known before mixing concrete to obtain a desirable mixture, such as size degradation, specific gravity, bulk density, moisture content, water absorption, fineness modulus, aggregate crushing value (ACV), aggregate impact value (AIV), and Los Angeles abrasion value. The crushing value is crucial because it determines the aggregate load resistance. In road and pavement applications, concrete aggregates must have a crushing value of not more than 30%, but up to 45% in other applications [35]. POC meets the requirements for a lightweight structural aggregate, according to the physical properties defined by different researchers. According to BSI Document 92/17688, lightweight aggregates have a specific gravity of less than 2.2 and a bulk density of less than 1200 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. POC aggregate is about 25% lighter than river sand and 48% lighter than crushed granite stone in unit weight [36]. Furthermore, according to Hossain [37], POC is more water-absorbent than the standard aggregate. As a result, Al-Khaiat and Haque [38] concluded that when opposed to normal concrete aggregates, the impact of inadequate curing on porous lightweight concrete aggregates is negligible at the early stages of hydration. Excessive water usage and internal accumulation of lightweight aggregates aggravate this condition. Hardened concrete is aided because of the POC aggregate water absorption. POC aggregate has a crushing value of 6%–10% lower than crushed granite, allowing it to be used in any standardised shape. According to Mohammed et al. [39], the AIV and ACV were about 34% and 30% higher than granite aggregates, respectively. The POC aggregate higher ACV value may be attributed to the brittle and angular particle structure used in this study.

**Table 1.** Physical properties of POC

Ref	Type of waste	Size POC (mm)	Specific Gravity (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Bulk Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Moisture Content (%)	Water Absorption (%)	Fineness Modulus	ACV (%)	AIV (%)	Los Angeles Abrasion Value (%)
[39]	Coarse	5-14	1.82	781.08	0.07	4.35	6.75	18.08	25.36	27.09
[39]	Fine	<5	2.01	1118.86	0.11	26.45	3.31	-	-	-
[40]	Coarse	5-14	1.73	732	1 ± 0.5	3 ± 2	-	56.44	-	-
[41]	Coarse	<10	1.75	568	0.08	5.67	-	-	27.31	25.05
[42]	Coarse	5-9	1.76	801	-	6.08	-	-	-	-
[42]	Coarse	9-14	1.68	813	-	5.56	-	-	-	-

**Table 1.** Physical properties of POC (cont.)

Ref	Type of waste	Size POC (mm)	Specific Gravity (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Bulk Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Moisture Content (%)	Water Absorption (%)	Fineness Modulus	ACV (%)	AIV (%)	Los Angeles Abrasion Value (%)
[43]	Coarse	4.75-12.5	1.80	782	-	3.56	6.32	-	-	-
[44]	Fine	<4.75	2.15	811	0.11	5.75	-	-	-	-
[44]	Coarse	4.75-10	1.81	732	0.28	4.35	-	56.44	-	-
[29]	Coarse	4.75-9.5	1.88	732	-	3 ± 2	-	56.44	-	-
[31]	Fine	<5	2.15	-	0.5 ± 0.25	10 ± 5	-	-	-	-
[31]	Coarse	5-14	1.73	-	1 ± 0.5	3 ± 2	-	56.44	-	-
[45]	Coarse	<12	1.69	860	-	7.0	-	-	-	-
[46]	Coarse	5-12.5	1.82	781.08	-	4.35	6.75	-	25.36	27.09

### Chemical properties of POC

Table 2 compares the chemical compositions of palm oil clinker powder (POCP) used in this study with those used in previous research. XRD is a technique that many researchers use to determine the amorphism of a substance [47]. The chemical composition findings were inconsistent, exhibiting heterogeneity as shown by the standard deviation in Table 2. POC is primarily composed of SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and K<sub>2</sub>O. The active SiO<sub>2</sub> is essential to demonstrate pozzolanic action [48]. Pozzolanic occurrence is likely to occur when the combined weight of three oxides (SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) exceeds 70%. Most samples produce these oxides more than 70% [49]. The chemical composition of POCP varies according to the feeding ratio in boiler, boiler burning temperature and working conditions, including the geological state of the regions in which the palm oil trees were planted [22].

**Table 2.** Chemical properties of POC

Ref	SiO <sub>2</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	CaO	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	MgO	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	SO <sub>3</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> O	TiO <sub>2</sub>	LOI
[43]	59.63	11.66	8.16	5.37	5.01	4.62	3.7	0.73	0.32	0.22	-
[50]	65.4	9.519	5.744	6.563	6.402	2.713	1.947	0.635	0.318	0.113	-
[51]	55.39	17.7	7.05	3.97	2	10.81	-	0.19	-	-	0.02
[33]	65.30	13.65	3.89	0.78	3.72	5.65	4.23	0.09	-	0.13	2.42
[32]	60.29	7.24	3.28	3.78	4.20	4.71	5.83	0.31	0.20	0.10	5.23
[26]	63.90	10.20	6.93	-	3.37	3.30	3.89	0.21	-	-	-
[52]	59.9	15.1	6.37	3.47	3.30	6.93	3.89	0.39	-	-	1.89
[48]	60.29	7.79	3.27	3.10	3.76	4.71	5.83	0.11	-	0.13	-

**Table 2.** Chemical properties of POC (cont.)

Ref	SiO <sub>2</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	CaO	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	MgO	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	SO <sub>3</sub>	Na <sub>2</sub> O	TiO <sub>2</sub>	LOI
[53]	60.0	12.0	8.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	-	-	-	-
[34]	59.63	11.66	8.16	5.37	5.01	4.62	3.7	0.73	0.32	0.22	-
[44]	60.29	7.79	3.26	3.10	3.76	4.71	5.83	0.11	-	0.13	-

## WORKABILITY

Workability is a critical trait that contributes significantly to concrete consistency. Generally, a slump test is used to determine workability. According to Mehta and Monteiro [35], lightweight concrete with a slump value of 50–75 mm performs similarly to the conventional concrete with a slump value of 100 – 125 mm in site use. Past researchers [43,44, 40] investigated the slump of concrete with varying percentages of POC in various concrete mixtures as coarse aggregates replacement. Based on Table, Abutaha et al. [44] studied the slump of concrete mixes with POC as aggregates in the production of high strength concrete. The study found that higher amount of POC, will achieve lower slump. Similarly, the slump decreased with increased percentage of POC aggregates [40]. It concluded that the physical properties of POC with its sharp broken edges, rough, porous, and flaky surface, has a larger surface area than granite. Also, concrete mixes with POC as coarse aggregates might be harsher and less cohesive as compared to the conventional concrete mix that affected the workability of concrete mix. As a result, the amount of additional paste required was increased to achieve an adequate level of workability [40]. Recently Hamada et al. [33], studied the improvement of concrete strength with different percentages of nano palm oil clinker powder (NPOCP) as cement replacement and full replacement of POC aggregates in concrete mixture. The workability increased because of the high silica content (63.21%) of NPOCP and might be due to the smaller particle size of NPOCP to provide additional lubrication in the concrete mix. Other studies such as [52] concluded that the hydration of POC powder may be low at initial age because it contains 60% of silica and dicalcium silicate (C<sub>2</sub>S) due to presence of wollastonite. As a consequence, it is predicted that by increasing the percentage replacement of POC powder and superplasticiser to disperse the cement particle in the same proportion results in workability improvement [44, 52]. On the other hand, there are researchers who reported that workability of concrete mixes remained with the target ranges, which were 150 ± 25 mm [44] and 105 ± 25 mm [40] slump when POC is replaced as a fine aggregates replacement. The fineness modulus of POC was 2.62, which was closed to fineness modulus of sand (2.87); the workability produces is comparable to non-POC mixes.

**Table 3.** Effects of POC on workability of concrete

Ref	POC content (%)	Type of waste	Size POC (mm)	Slump (mm)
[43]	0, 25, 50, 75, 100	Coarse	4.75-12.5	55, 50, 55, 51, 53
[53]	0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25	Cement	<5	49, 140, 150, 175, 225
[44]	0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100	Coarse	4.75-10	140, 130, 125, 110, 128, 100
[44]	0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100	Fine	<4.75	140, 132, 145, 155, 150, 140
[33]	0, 10, 20, 30, 40	Cement	150 µm	84, 103, 130, 132, 140
[40]	0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100	Coarse	5-14	90, 82, 80, 69, 55, 50, 40
[40]	0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100	Fine	<5	90, 92, 100, 95, 100, 102, 105

## HARDENED PROPERTIES OF POC CONCRETE

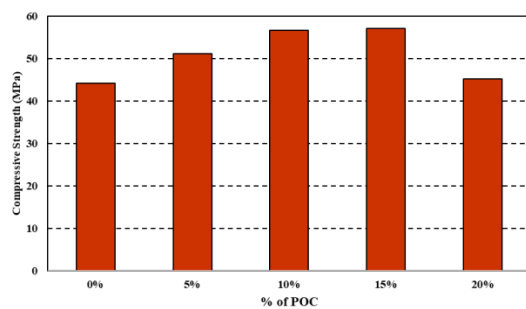
Realisation on the increasing use of natural resources such as river sand, granite aggregates and limestones from the environments for concrete production has open the door for the discovery of POC to be used as an alternative material. The potential of POC to be used as partial cement replacement, sand replacement and coarse aggregates replacement in concrete has been explored by many researchers, as presented in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Mechanical properties of POC in concrete

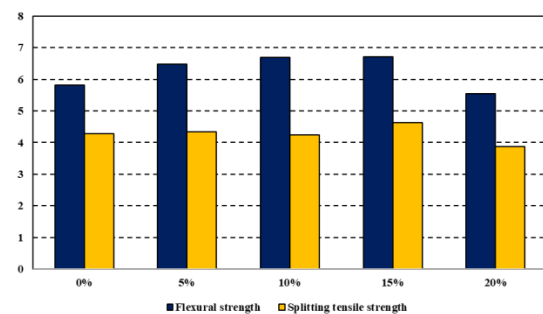
Ref	POC content (%)	Type of waste	Compressive strength	Flexural strength	Splitting tensile strength	Modulus of elasticity
[40]	0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100	Coarse	Decreased all replacement	-	-	-
[40]	0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100	Fine	Decreased all replacement	-	-	-
[33]	0, 10, 20, 30, 40	Cement	Increased at 10% replacement	-	-	-
[44]	0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100	Coarse	Decreased all replacement	Decreased all replacement	Decreased all replacement	Decreased all replacement
[44]	0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100	Fine	Decreased all replacement	-	Increased at 20% replacement	Decreased all replacement
[53]	0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25	Cement	Increased at 15% replacement	Increased at 15% replacement	Increased at 15% replacement	Increased at 15% replacement
[34]	0, 25, 50, 75, 100	Coarse	Increased all replacement	-	-	Increased all replacement
[42]	100	Coarse	Increased at 100% replacement	Increased at 100 replacement	Increased at 100 replacement	Increased at 100 replacement
[54]	0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25	Fine	Increased at 20% replacement	-	-	-
[55]	0, 5, 10	Fine	Increased all replacement	Increased all replacement	-	-

#### ***Palm Oil Clinker Powder as Partial Cement Replacement in Concrete***

The current paper summarises the results of several major investigations in which compressive strength, flexural strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity were estimated by using varying quantities of cement replacement. The integration of finely ground palm oil clinker powder as cement replacement [37, 53] enhanced the strength of concrete. Concrete with 10% of nano-sized palm oil clinker powder recorded higher than the control concrete at 28 days due to pozzolanic reaction [33]. Another research by Ahmmad et al. [53] reported that 15% of POC powder was the optimum percentage to be used as partial cement replacement for producing concrete with enhanced strength in compressive strength, splitting tensile strength, flexural strength and modulus of elasticity, as illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2. This was the result of pozzolanic reaction between calcium hydroxide from the hydration process with silica from palm oil clinker powder in the presence of moisture. The chemical reaction formed secondary calcium silicate hydrate gel, which contributed to denser internal structure of concrete, making the concrete to exhibit higher strength. The POC aggregates had different structures and produced tiny pores, ranging in size from 10.4 to 1200  $\mu\text{m}$  [25] and many pores with less than minimum sand particle size, which was 75  $\mu\text{m}$ . In addition, the particle size of POC powder used was between 0.43  $\mu\text{m}$  and 112  $\mu\text{m}$ . As a result, the smaller POC particles would fill voids within the pores of the coarse POC aggregates, and thus strengthening the bond [53]. Excessive amount of POC powder (exceed 15% of replacement) produced more voids and resulted in decreased strength [53]. Several researchers have studied POC in semi-lightweight concrete [33] and lightweight concrete [53] as cement replacement; hence, the effectiveness of integrating POC as partial cement replacement in modern concrete, such as steel fibre reinforced concrete, porous concrete, geopolymer concrete, high strength concrete, pervious concrete and self compacting concrete, remain to be explored. The effect of different sizes of POC that range from micro to nano size as partial cement replacement towards durability and fire resistance of concrete is amongst the interesting areas to venture. The resistance concrete that contains finely ground POC as partial cement replacement exposed to marine environment should be investigated.



**Figure 1.** Compressive strength of POC as cement replacement from past researcher [53]



**Figure 2.** Flexural strength and tensile strength of POC as cement replacement [53]

### **Palm Oil Clinker as Lightweight Aggregate in Concrete**

Several researchers [40, 44, 34, 42, 56] have conducted POC as the coarse aggregates replacement in concrete mixes. POC concrete showed a similar trend of flexural strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity as in the compressive strength. Abutaha et al. [40, 44] reported that by substituting coarse aggregates for POC at 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, and 100% reduced compressive strength, flexural strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity (MOE) at 28 days after curing. The strength reduced caused by POC aggregates integration and the predicted failure mode occurred primarily in the POC aggregates, according to similar findings for POC concrete [52]. Then, irregular shape and high porosity of POC coarse aggregates had a significant effect on the strength of the concrete. Reduction of strength can also be explained by the POC ACV. ACV of POC was 56.44% higher than normal granite, which was 17.93%. This finding indicated that the POC aggregates did not have an adequate load-bearing capacity because the highly porous and honeycombed structure of POC accelerated load distribution, resulting in a rapid decrease in load. POC is notorious for its fragility, as shown by the higher crushing value, which reduced aggregate load retention and concrete strength. The stiffness and volume of the POC used also affected the MOE. The MOE of lightweight aggregates concrete is usually 10 to 24 GPa or 50% to 75% of the MOE of normal concrete [57]. High strength palm oil clinker concrete mixes have MOE values of 30 to 38 GPa, which is around 7% to 26% less than normal-weight concrete, according to Abutaha et al. [44]. The MOE value decreased as POC quantity in concrete increased. The study concluded that POC aggregates have a lower elastic modulus than regular aggregates because they are brittle. This pattern is close to the findings of Ozbakkaloglu et al. [58]. The MOE of a lightweight aggregates is determined by its pore structure and surface texture, as well as its density, according to Steven H. Kosmatka and Beatrix Kerkhoff [56]. Therefore, as compared to a porous aggregate, a thick aggregate with closely spaced pores has a higher MOE and a higher degree of hardness in concrete.

However, Ahmmad et al. [34] conducted their research by incorporating POC as a replacement of OPS as lightweight coarse aggregates in concrete mixes at 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of replacement. The compressive strength was reported in the range of 43.52 and 63.20 MPa at the age of 56 days and a mixture of 100% POC replacement has a maximum MOE of approximately 34.8 GPa. The strength was higher than the MOE obtained in previous studies in high strength lightweight concrete [59, 60], which was significant in the design of structural elements in serviceability limit states. 100% replacement OPS by POC as coarse aggregates in concrete mixes recorded the highest strength to other replacements in compressive strength and MOE. This was because POC aggregates strengthened concrete bonding by allowing binders to enter the pores and strengthen the bond with the aggregates. They also reported that the cement content of 466 kg/m<sup>3</sup> was lower but can produce higher strength as compared to some previous studies. Application of 100% POC as replacement of oil palm shell (OPS) in concrete reduced the the cost of high strength lightweight concrete significantly due to lower cement content. In addition, researcher [42] also conducted investigation by adding palm oil fuel ash (POFA), ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS) and metakolin (MK) as binders and POC and OPS as aggregates in geopolymer concrete. The highest compressive strength, flexural strength, splitting tensile strength and MOE was recorded at 100% POC as coarse aggregates with sizes (9–14 mm) as compared to OPS geopolymer concrete. POC was categorised as porous aggregates so the concrete was less vulnerable to inadequate curing than normal weight concrete due to the preserved water flow inside the porous aggregates and also increased the stiffness and the bond with cement paste which increased the concrete strength [42].

POC aggregate is porous in structure and lightweight as compared to the normal weight. This means that it is possible to use POC aggregates to improve the energy efficiency of buildings by demonstrating better insulation. In such a way, the effect of POC aggregates towards thermal conductivity and fire resistance of lightweight concrete is relevant to bring up in future studies. However, further research in POC as coarse aggregates with fixed mix proportion but from different source should be explored to investigate the effect of different POC sources will influence the mechanical and durability properties of lightweight aggregate concrete.



### Palm Oil Clinker as Fine Aggregate in Concrete

On the other hand, Abutaha et al. [40, 44] conducted a research by incorporating POC as filler in high strength concrete. Incorporation of POC as filler at 0%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, and 100% resulted in a slight decrease in compressive strength but was just 8%–17% less than control concrete [44]. The strength was maintained due to a substantial decrease in void ratio, which brought the strength similar to that of normal sand. Additionally, POC fine and natural sand particles had the same packing structure at equivalent size fractions, resulting in a reduction in substantial void formation. On the other hand, Arunima et al. [54] conducted their research in utilising POC as a partial replacement material for fine aggregates at 0%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20% and 25% replacement. An increase in compressive strength was observed with the addition of POC to the mix until the optimum level of replacement, which was 20% of POC at 7 days and 28 days, whereas with POC content that exceeded 20%, the strength of concrete decreased substantially with reduction in cohesion governed by POC, as shown in Figure 4. It might also be due to low absorption properties of POC which could leave excess water in concrete, causing excessive bleeding at higher POC content and resulted in the formation of internal voids and capillary channels in the concrete. This caused a reduction in its strength. Recently, Shahreen et al. [55] reported that the compressive strength and flexural strength increased in all replacements, as illustrated in Figure 3 and Figure 4. Inclusion of fine POC as partial replacement of sand concrete started the pozzolanic reaction and densification of concrete matrix, and thus improved interfacial bond between paste and aggregates. This study also confirmed that rougher particles of fine aggregates produced less voids in mineral aggregates and also contributed to the higher density which increased the stability of concrete mixture [55].

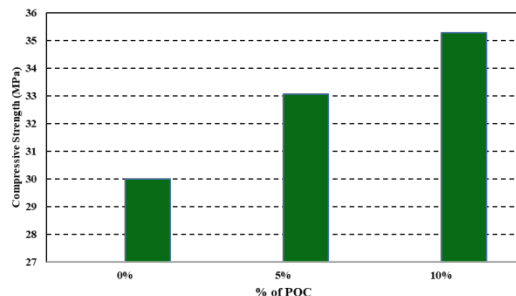


Figure 3. Compressive strength of POC as fine aggregate replacement [55]

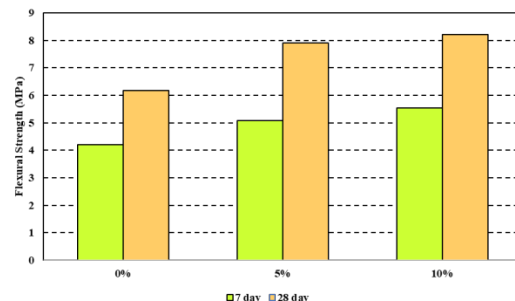


Figure 4. Flexural strength of POC as fine aggregate replacement at 7 and 28 days [55]

## CONCLUSION

POC has excellent potential as a building material. POC is also suitable for use as a construction material, like coarse and fine aggregates as well as cement, due to its physical and mechanical properties. More research is needed in the future to determine the best combination for achieving the highest strength of this material in concrete applications. Utilisation of POC in the production of various types of concrete material would reduce quantity of natural resources consumed for concrete manufacturing and limits the amount of POC which is disposed as environmental polluting waste.

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